

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 3 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 16th January 1875.

THE *Hita Sādhini* of the 22nd December complains that the inhabitants of Kulkati in Burrisal are put to much inconvenience owing to irregularities in the Ponábaliá Post Office. The authorities are henceforth besought to cause the despatch of letters addressed to Kulkati, from Jhal-kati or Nalchiti Post Office by means of Rural Messengers or peons, who should be appointed for this purpose.

HITA SĀDHINI,
December 22nd, 1874.

2. The same paper, in an article on the "Minor and Vernacular Scholarship examinations," remarks that candidates are subjected to considerable trouble from the great delay in publishing the results of these examinations and fixing the standard books. As the consequence of this, they are at present allowed only six months' time for preparation. The educational authorities are requested to attend to the subject.

HITA SĀDHINI.

3. The *Rungpore Dik Prakāsh* of the 31st December, remarks that the cause of a large portion of the evil that exists in the world is chiefly to be found in the desire of men to make gain by unjust means. Even the educated are not free from it. Under the influence of this desire, persons like Lord Clive have resorted to unfair means. The oppressions of the indigo planters are due to the same cause. For the same reason also the English Government is not disposed to check the prevalence of intoxication in India.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
December 31st, 1874.

4. The *Bishwa Dūt* of the 6th January has the following, on the Bill for the summary realisation of loans of money and grain due to Government:—Government is about to realise the advances, and the zemindars the rents from the ryots. It is needless to say that the last are thus placed in a great dilemma. We are at a loss to know what they can do at this time. We believe it would have been better for them, if they had died during the famine. Has Government saved them from death, only to bring on them such troubles now?

BISHWA DUT,
January, 6th 1875.

5. The same paper makes the following observations in an article headed the "Native Newspapers and the Anglo-Indian Editors." The cause of the growing hostility of the Anglo-Indian Editors to the freedom of the Vernacular Press, is that the latter is always ready to expose the oppressions and the defects of the men of the ruling race. The oppressions of the indigo planters and of the English merchants, the partiality of the English Judges, and the unsound reasoning of the Anglo-Indian Editors, are all commented on in the Native Press; and it would be the height of injustice if its liberty were now withdrawn on this ground. These Editors take every opportunity to abuse the vernacular papers. We request them to point out clearly their defects, and those passages which may be construed into sedition. Otherwise mere clamour for the destruction of their liberty will be of no avail.

BISHWA DUT.

BISHWA DUT,
January 6th, 1875.

6. The same paper observes, in the course of an editorial headed the "High Court," that though the British Government evidently desires to administer justice to all its subjects—as witness the large number of judges and courts established for this purpose—still it is a matter of regret that the poor are, under the existing state of things, practically debarred from obtaining that justice in the law courts. Owing to the large expenses which every suitor must incur, and the troubles which must be undergone in conducting a case, even in a moonsif's court, many are prevented from seeking justice. It is simply impossible for a poor person to appeal to the High Court. The case was, however, otherwise in the days of the ancient Hindu kings. A person could then appeal to the Sovereign himself. The English Government has indeed made provisions for administering justice to the "paupers;" but what an enormous amount of trouble must be undergone before this privilege can be availed of, in any given case! The English are more given to diplomacy and show than the Hindu kings; hence their expenditure in connection with the administration of justice is immense. Exclusive of the costs of litigation, which Government may justly claim, there are other expenses to be paid, which make it impossible for a man of moderate means to appeal to the High Court. Government is besought to devise some means, by recourse to which even the poorest subject may obtain justice in the High Court.

BISHWA DUT.

7. The same paper remarks, in reference to the "Cost of governing India," that the extravagant expenditure of Government in connection with its administration, and the high salaries paid to the English officials, have burdened the country with taxes. India would not have been so afflicted if she were wealthy; but she is extremely poor. The authorities to whom her government is entrusted do not, however, understand this fact. If a judicious person of moderate means had the charge of her finances, they would have been, in all probability, economically managed. But India suffers these miseries from her destiny having been always, since the introduction of the British Government, entrusted to wealthy persons, who were not very frugal in the expenditure of the public funds.

BISHWA DUT.

8. Adverting to the rudeness and ignorance that prevail in the Army, the same paper remarks that it is the clear duty of Government to promote and encourage the education and morality of the soldiers. Their religious emotions should be pre-eminently fostered and developed.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
January 6th, 1875.

9. The *Grāmbartā Prakāshikā* of the 6th January, has the following in its opening article:—Evil instead of good often results from the endeavours of Government to have really difficult duties performed by men on small monthly salaries. By his scheme of primary education by Gurumahashayas, the late Lieutenant-Governor created an annual expenditure of one lakh of rupees. The native civil service has also been an evil. The life and property of men in the mofussil are practically entrusted to those in the police whose pay hardly exceeds Rs. 15; for the higher police officials on higher salaries are only adepts at threatening, and have no connection whatever with the investigation of any case. The competency of the former is well known to everybody. Through errors in their judgment, the guilty escape punishment, while many an innocent man is brought up to receive sentence of death. It urgently behoves Government to appoint only competent men to those positions in the Police Department which have direct reference to the investigation of criminal cases.

PRATIDHWANI,
January 8th, 1875.

10. The *Pratidhwani* of the 8th January remarks, in reference to the Address lately presented by the British Indian Association to Lord Northbrook

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and Sir Richard Temple for their energy and activity in suppressing the famine, that the public does fully approve of the sentiments expressed in the Address. Whatever their enemies may say, the Bengalis are never wanting in gratefulness; they never forget those that truly seek their welfare. What truth-loving person can say, witnessing the feelings of gratitude excited at the mention of Lord Northbrook's name in the heart of every Bengali, that the Bengalis are not loyal, or that they secretly desire the destruction of the British power in India. It is not possible that such a wise and gentle personage as Lord Northbrook will be led to distrust the Bengalis by giving heed to the representations of a number of envious persons.

11. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 7th January writes the following in an article headed the "Appointment of Native Members in the Bengal Legislative Council." Those only should be chosen as are wise, intelligent, and learned, and possess a thorough knowledge of the country; whom Government has not brought under its influence by favors; and who will not fear to differ from the opinions of the highest men in Bengal. Some who have hitherto been members in the Legislative Council have been sadly wanting in the above qualifications. Government appoints native members, in order that the interests of the native subjects may be adequately represented, and it therefore behoves them to choose only such men as sympathise with the people. We should protest against the appointment of incompetent persons in the Legislative Council.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 7th, 1875

12. The *Education Gazette* of the 8th January thus concludes an article on Amir Shere Ali:—The reply of the Amir to the despatch of the Indian Government, in reference to the imprisonment of his son, is not at all satisfactory. The fact, that the advice of the Governor-General has been unheeded, is not agreeable to us. We think that the interference of the Government, in a matter where it was so unlikely to be attended to, has not been proper. What steps will be now taken in the case it is impossible to tell; but we hope that none but the wisest measures will be adopted. Whatever that may be, it is time that a different policy from that hitherto followed should now be pursued in reference to Cabul. Whether Shere Ali will act according to the intentions of the Government is apparent from his recent conduct. And if he follows a different policy from that of the English Government, he can no longer be depended upon in regard to the safety of India.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
January 8th, 1875.

13. A correspondent of the same paper requests the Inspecting Post-Master General, on behalf of the inhabitants of Sankuá, a village in Midnapore, to direct that a letter-box be placed there subject to the Post Office at Bhadrakáli. Such an act will be greatly beneficial.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

14. One Ishwara Chandra Padyá, writing to the same paper, beseeches the authorities to cause the construction of a road from Ulu Beriá to Tumlook, out of the Road Cess Funds that are levied in thana Shyámpore, subdivision Mohishrekhá, in the district of Howrah. This measure will remove the inconvenience now suffered by the inhabitants for want of roads in this part of the country, and will be also a great boon to the poor laborers by affording them employment.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

15. The *Bharat Sangskarak* of the 8th January, dwelling on the importance of gymnastic exercises to the native students, notices, with gratification, the encouragement given to this subject by the present Lieutenant-Governor, and observes that arrangements should be made for teaching gymnastics in all the schools in the country. Moreover, in awarding prizes and allowing

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 8th, 1875.

them to compete in the tournaments, Government should not make any invidious distinction between the pupils of Government and private schools. Let competitive examinations be held in every district, and prizes awarded to the successful students. We believe that Sir Richard Temple, and his worthy colleagues, did not arrange this tournament only for a passing amusement. They doubtless meant to confer in this way a lasting benefit upon the native students.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
January 9th 1875.

16. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 9th January has a lengthy editorial on the spirit of insubordination, and an unwillingness to pay their rents, which is displayed by the ryots in the Dacca district towards the zemindars. The former have an erroneous impression, which is corroborated by the acts of designing persons, that Lord Northbrook, on the occasion of his recent visit to Dacca, fixed the rent of every beegha of arable land at five annas, and of homestead land at eight annas. The zemindars are put to great difficulty from their inability to realise the rents without having recourse to law. The Magistrate of Dacca, however, is trying his best to disabuse the ignorant tenantry of their errors, by public notifications.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR,
January 9th, 1875.

17. Adverting to a rumour that Government intends to confer the title of "Raya Bahadur" on Baboo Joykrishna Mookerjee, of Utterparah, for the generosity and energy displayed by him in suppressing the famine, the *Saptarik Samachar* of the 9th January remarks that Raya Bahadur is too common a title to be offered as a reward for such merits; he deserves the more honorable title of Raja.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR.

18. The same paper observes, in reference to the letter of a correspondent, published in the same issue, that a system of registering coolies should be introduced into Calcutta. People are now frequently put to much loss and trouble by trusting their baggage to carriers, who do, and can, easily disappear amid the crowded thoroughfares of Calcutta. The Police cannot at present help in the least to detect criminal offenders.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR.

19. The same paper has the following in regard to the passenger traffic on the Howrah Bridge:—There has been a decrease in the number of passengers using the bridge, since tolls began to be levied on it. When people have to pay one pice, whether they cross the river by the bridge or by boat, they prefer doing the latter. It will be unjust in Government to prohibit crossing by boats. Let the toll on every person be reduced to half a pice. As it is, the bridge has been of but little advantage to the public.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR.

20. The same paper makes the following remarks, in reference to the intelligence that Government, on the evidence collected by the Police Commissioner of Bombay, has called upon the Guicowar to prove his innocence, in the attempt made at Baroda to poison Colonel Phayre:—If the Guicowar is really guilty, let him be condignly punished. But we are really surprised to hear that, on the mere authority of a police report, Government has decided on depriving a dependent prince of his kingdom. It is well known that the Police does, on several occasions, act under the influence of imagination, and endeavour to prove the guilt of an innocent man. Moreover, the manner in which Mr. Souter performed his part, during the Parsee ryots at Bombay, leads us to question his sagacity and impartiality as a public officer. Considering that the Magistrates do not convict, even a common man, in the absence of any stronger evidence, on that merely of the Police, it is highly improper that a respectable and a dependent prince like the Guicowar should be suspected of being guilty on the bare testimony of a Police Commissioner. It would have been better if the new Resident at Baroda were entrusted with the task of making inquiries

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into this case. The unpopularity of the Guicowar is due to the enmity of Colonel Phayre and some of his partisans.

21. The same paper remarks on the Mahomedan Marriage Registration Bill, which was lately introduced into the Bengal Council, that the object of the Bill will be hardly attained if the registration of marriages and divorces be left optional. The more respectable portion of Mahomedans will not surely neglect to have their marriages and divorces registered, but the poorer and the lower orders of Mahomedans will not be so disposed, as it seems to us, to take advantage of this law, unless it be made compulsory; while it is precisely among these classes that the evils consequent upon a laxity of the marriage tie prevail so extensively.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR.
January 9th, 1875.

22. On the Bill for the realisation of loans due to Government for famine advances, the same paper observes as follows:—The ryots availed themselves of these loans when they had no other resources left them. It does not behove a generous Government to trouble them for repayment while yet they have scarcely stored up a year's harvest. Government has consented to accept, by instalments, the repayment of the loans granted to the zemindars for the construction of works of public utility. Are the ryots then less worthy than they? Moreover, the ryots will not be able to obtain high prices for their crops this year, since the harvest has been plentiful. The zemindars, again, will justly claim their rents. Government should, therefore, make provision for the gradual realisation of its advances in money and grain. The only consequence of an attempt to realise, in one payment, the loans given to the ryots by the sale of their moveable as well as immoveable property, will be that, by a Government which has saved them during the scarcity of one year, they will be thrown into a state of misery for years to come.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR.

23. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 10th January has a highly eulogistic editorial on Mr. Cockerell, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, for the energy, impartiality, and courtesy with which he has discharged his official duties. The Editor regrets that he is to be transferred from that part of the country, and requests his countrymen to petition the Lieutenant-Governor to retain him in that place, and to present to him a suitable Address.

DACCA PRAKASH.
January 10th, 1875.

24. In the course of an editorial on the trial of the Nana, the *Sadhārani* of the 10th January has the following observations:—There are two opposite characteristics generally noted in the English nation. While they do nothing but fearlessly await the advance of the Russians, they send out armed detachments against the Dufflas. While one law has it, that a person is to be held innocent so long as there is even a particle of doubt as to his guilt, another lays it down, that a person may be thrown into prison on mere suspicion, and denied the privilege of a trial. If there is any filth in a prison, the jailor is punished as much as he might be if he had not made a juvenile prisoner work at the oil-machine for a prescribed time. The proclamation has it that there is no distinction of black and white in the sight of the rulers; while the law provides that a white person cannot be tried by any but another white person.

SADHARANI.
January 10th, 1875.

25. The *Sahachar* of the 11th January remarks, in reference to the appointment of Baboo Krisna Dás Pal and Nawab Ashgar Ali Khan to the Legislative Council of Bengal, that the appointment of the former has conferred an honor on the country, and that of the latter has given great satisfaction to the public.

SAHACHAR.
January 11th, 1875.

SAHACHAR,
January 11th, 1875.

26. The Editor of the same paper wants to know who has authorised Dr. Oldham, of the Geological Survey, to prohibit the admission of Bengalis into that Department. Dr. Oldham recently told a Bengali, who sought admission into it, that appointments there, were to be obtained only by Hindusthanis and Punjabis. Has the Governor-General made this rule? If he has, on what authority, it may be asked, has he done this? It has not been certainly done according to the Queen's proclamation. Lord Northbrook also has in a manner expressed his determination not to go beyond its provisions. We hope that the native newspapers will take up the matter for consideration. It is indeed our desire to devote ourselves to scientific pursuits; but the means by which this object is to be compassed are withheld by Government from the people of the most civilised province of India. While we are being constantly told that all are equal in the sight of the law and our rulers, it now seems to be, however, the fixed policy of Government to put down those subjects of the British Government who may shew any signs of progress; so that the British nation should not then be grieved or displeased if the whole of India and the world censure them for their conduct in this matter.

SAHACHAR.

27. The same paper has a lengthy editorial on the system of medical treatment in the mofussil. It is observed, that the large number of deaths, that takes place every year in the mofussil from malarious fever, is accelerated by the unskilful treatment of ignorant doctors who have not had any medical training. Government indeed deserves great praise for making persistent efforts to find out the cause of this destructive malarious fever, which has brought desolation over a large province in Lower Bengal; and it may also be congratulated upon its success in partially discovering this cause which is supposed to be an obstruction, and in many instances a stoppage, of the natural water-passages of the country. But it is a matter of regret that no notice has yet been taken of the injury inflicted upon the suffering masses in the mofussil by a number of ignorant men, who procure a supply of common medicines, which might be administered in any case, and set themselves up as doctors. Numbers of malaria-stricken people have already come into the metropolis for better treatment, and have caused the spread of malarious fever into Calcutta. Government should appoint some medical officers to check the growing evil of these quack-doctors by handing them over to justice; and let medical schools be established in the mofussil with a view to enforce the training of these ignorant people.

SAHACHAR.

28. The same paper, in an article on the Vernacular Scholarship Examinations, makes the following remarks for the consideration of the authorities:—(1.) The prescribed age of 12 years, which should not be exceeded in the case of a candidate, to enable him to be eligible to a scholarship, is objectionable on the ground that, considering all the circumstances of the case, it is almost impossible for a boy so young to master the many difficult text-books appointed for his examination. It would be better if the prescribed age were raised to 15 years. (2.) It is to be regretted that in the Vernacular Scholarship Examination little attention is paid to the study of the Bengali language and literature by the candidates. (3.) The questions should be the same for all candidates, no matter where the examination is held. There should be a meeting of examiners held to consider whether the questions that are set are suited to the capacity of the examinees. This is not attended to at present.

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The examiners are more intent on shewing off their own learning, than to test the knowledge of the candidates.

29. The same paper thus concludes an editorial, on the realisation of the famine advances due to the Government:—After a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, it seems to us that it will be proper to entrust the Deputy Collectors alone with the task of realising these loans. They should go about from village to village. The ryots took the loans owing to their poverty, and stamps should not therefore be used in the transactions. A period of at least three years should be allowed to those who took advances for one year only, and who are not able to repay them at once. It is needless to add that the instalments should be fixed in proportion to the value of the harvest reaped, and the arrears of rent due to the zemindars. In conclusion, Government is besought to prevent, from being carried out, a proposal which is being made by some zemindars to purchase the bonds executed by their ryots for the repayment of the advances; for, if they succeed, the ryots will be reduced to the level of slaves to their landlords.

SAHACHAR,
January 11th, 1875.

30. The Editor of the *Ak'bar-ul-Akhiar* says, that though the people of Tirhoot feel extremely grateful to Government for saving them from the ravages of the dire famine which recently threatened that district, yet their minds have become perplexed and uneasy at the intelligence that the road cess will shortly be levied there, with a view, as they seem to think, to recoup Government for the heavy outlay made by it in supplying them with food, so that ere one wound has been healed, another is about to be inflicted. The Editor thereupon proceeds to show, for the information of these ignorant people, that the Road Cess Act will come into operation in the famine-stricken districts after the expiry of two years, during which period the necessary arrangements for its collection will have been made.

AKHBAAR-UL-AKBIAR,
January 1st, 1875.

31. With reference to the late Bombay riots, the *Durbin* does not understand why Government has not managed to extirpate all the causes from which they arose, and thus put an end to the disputes between the Parsees and Muhammadans of Bombay. The Editor, after giving a lengthy description of the riots, draws the attention of his readers to the fact that, in the early days of the British rule in India, Mr. Gilchrist, a Professor of the College of Fort William, proposed a question during an examination which reflected on one of the religions of India, whereupon Lord Mornington not only deprived him of his situation, but directed his immediate deportation to his native land. This happened under the rule of the East India Company. And now that the country has passed under the direct government of the Queen, how is it that the present Government does not devise some measures to prevent the people of one caste from reviling and abasing the religion of another? The result of such non-intervention will end in a constant fear and dread of a probable outbreak and disturbance. The Editor therefore hopes that the Viceroy and Governor-General will be pleased to direct special attention to this matter, and adopt some plan whereby to root out every cause which may lead to such disasters as the above.

DURBIN,
January 8th, 1875.

32. An anonymous correspondent, writing from Mithal in Durbhunga to the *Urdu Guide*, under date the 20th December, after praising and thanking Government on behalf of himself and others for the great efforts made to alleviate the distress from the recent famine, complains of the bad state of the various tanks and ponds in that district, some of which are in an

URDU GUIDE,
January 9th, 1875.

unfinished state and others lying unrepaired, thus leading to the loss of many valuable lives, especially of children, two of whom were drowned in a tank at Katká in his presence. The roads, too, are in a very bad state, remaining unbridged, so that portions of them appear like islands. This correspondent prays the Government to have the slopes and ghâts of the tanks properly reconstructed according to the requirements of the district, or in any way it may think best.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 16th January 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
16th January 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhârat Darpan"	Chinsurah ...	Bi-monthly ...	7th January.
2	"Uchit Baktâ"	Azingunge, Moorshedabad	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
3	"Hita Sâdhini"	Burrisal ...	Weekly ...	22nd December 1874.
4	"Rungpore Dik Prakash"	Kâkinia, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.
5	"Hindu Ranjikâ"	Bauleah, Râjshahye ...	Ditto ...	6th January.
6	"Burrisal Bârtâbâh"	Burrisal ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
7	"Grâmbartâ Prakashikâ"	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
8	"Bishwa Dût"	Kâlighât, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
9	"Pratidhwani"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
10	"Amrita Bazar Patrikâ"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
11	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
12	"Bhârat Sangskârak"	Harinavi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
13	"Sâptâhik Samâchâr"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
14	"Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
15	"Dacca Prakash"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
16	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
17	"Sâdhârani"	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
18	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
19	"Dût"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
20	"Sulabha Samâchâr"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
21	"Sâptâhik Sambâd"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
22	"Samâchâr Chandrikâ"	Calcutta ...	Bi-weekly ...	7th and 11th January.
23	"Sambâd Prabhâkar"	Ditto ...	Daily ...	7th to 13th ditto.
24	"Sambâd Purnachandro- daya."	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th to 13th ditto.
25	"Akhhâr-ul-Akhiâr" (in Urdu.)	Mozufferpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	1st January.
26	"Dûrbîn" (in Persian.)	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	8th and 15th January.
27	"Jâm Jehân-numâ" (in Per- sian.)	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	8th and 15th ditto.
28	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th January.
29	"Behâr Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.